

MINK PRODUCTION

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MINNESOTA PELT PRODUCTION DOWN 2% FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

PELT PRODUCTION: Minnesota, one of the nation's leading mink producing states, placed fourth behind Wisconsin, Utah, and Oregon, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. Total state production for 1999 amounted to 262,700 mink pelts, down 2% from 1998. By color class, Mahogany accounted for 41.0% of the total 1999 production; Ranch Wild, 23.0%; Standard, 16.5%, and Gunmetal, 14.2%. The remaining color classes accounted for 5.3%.

Total United States production for 1999 was 2.81 million pelts, down 4% from 1998. Wisconsin, the leading mink producing state, produced 731,700 pelts, 26% of the nation's total. Utah, the second ranked mink producing state, produced a 23.1% share with 650,000 pelts produced.

By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production was: Standard, 37.9%; Mahogany, 25.6%; Gunmetal, 16.3%; Ranch Wild, 6.1%; and Demi-Buff, 3.8%. The remaining color classes accounted for 10.3%. The total U.S. mink pelts produced during the 1999 crop year were valued at \$94.8 million, up 30% from \$72.9 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 1999 crop year was \$33.70, up 36% from the price of \$24.80 in 1998.

BRED FEMALES: Minnesota was third in the nation in the total number of females bred to produce kits in 2000, behind Wisconsin and Utah. Minnesota females bred for 2000 at 62,900 was up 10% from 1999. Of these females, Mahogany color class claimed 44.0%; Ranch Wild, 18.8%; Standard, 17.5%; and Gunmetal, 14.5%. The remaining color classes accounted for 5.2%.

The number of mink females in the U.S. bred to produce kits in 2000 totaled 660,400, down 2% from the previous year. Females bred in the leading states and the changes from the previous year are: Wisconsin - 162,500 (down 2%); Utah - 163,000 (up 4%); Minnesota - 62,900 (up 10%); and Oregon - 57,000 (down 2%).

FARM NUMBERS: In the U.S., there were 404 mink farms producing pelts in 1999. The leading states were Utah with 110 farms, Wisconsin with 82 farms, and Minnesota with 40 farms.

**Minnesota Mink Pelts
and Number of Farms 1989- 1999**

